

this influence about the time, the case of which we have been speaking, came under treatment.

No cause for this influence could be detected. There is probably no hospital better ventilated, and since the substitution of air furnaces in the cellars for the stoves formerly kept in the wards, the purity of the air and the absence of unpleasant effluvia have been matter of common remark.

Whether any, or what influence was excited by this epidemic predisposition, in producing the melancholy result so different from what had been hoped for, we do not pretend to say, but its occurrence at this time was so striking, as to deserve mention in the record of the case.

September, 1835.

ART. III. *Observations upon the Mortality in Philadelphia under the age of Puberty, showing the Excessive proportion of the Male over the Female Deaths, and the particular Sources from whence it Proceeds.* By G. EMERSON, M. D.

OF the children born in Philadelphia during the ten years included between 1821 and 1830, amounting, according to the returns made to the Board of Health, to 64,642; there were 2,496 more males than females. But notwithstanding the males at birth thus exceed the females about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., a reference to the census of 1830, shows that by the fifth year of childhood, the male excess is reduced to about 5 per cent., and at ten years to only 1 per cent.; and that the reduction still going on, the females between the ages of ten and fifteen, exceed the males about 8 per cent., and between fifteen and twenty, 7.3 per cent.

Here then we find, that during the early stages of life, there are agencies operating to reduce unduly the proportion of the male sex, and to trace out and identify these, forms a highly interesting subject of inquiry. This we were unable to do, when our former calculations upon the subject of infantile mortality were made,\* as no distinction of sex existed in the record of deaths occurring under the twentieth year. For the last three years, however, this important designation has been made in the bills of mortality, and we are thus enabled to identify with precision the affections which prove most fatal to the respective sexes during the periods of infancy.

It has commonly been supposed that the greater exposure of males

\* For which see American Journal of the Medical Sciences, Vol. I. p. 116, and Vol. IX. p. 17.

to accidents, furnished a sufficient explanation of their greater mortality. But our inquiry shows the fallacy of this reasoning, the deaths reported under the head of casualties constituting but a small proportion of the whole mortality, in which when burns and scalds are included, the female deaths are found to exceed the male. The truth is, that with very few exceptions, all the morbid influences to which the early periods of life are exposed, operate with peculiar fatality among the males, showing unequivocally that the true cause of the disparity resides in some physiological peculiarity.

The following tabular statements exhibit:—

1st. The mortality under the twentieth year, from the most frequent sources, during the years 1832, 1833, and 1834, with the numbers of each sex from each disease, and the ratio in which the deaths of the one exceed those of the other sex.

2d. The numbers of each sex for the respective years.

3d. The periods of infantile life at which the deaths occurred.

DISEASES.	Males.	Females.	Excess.		Ratio of Excess.
			M.	F.	
Consumption . . . . .	153	185		32	17.3 p. ct.
Convulsions . . . . .	433	357	76		17.5
Bowel complaints of all kinds, (excepting } Cholera Maligna)	699	597	101		14.5
Small-pox . . . . .	133	114	19		14.3
Scarlet Fever . . . . .	216	220		4	1.8
Croup . . . . .	157	120	37		23.5
Whooping Cough . . . . .	78	80		2	2.5
Bronchitis . . . . .	114	84	30		26.3
Inflammation of the Brain . . . . .	101	67	34		33.6
of the Lungs . . . . .	190	151	39		20.5
of the Bowels . . . . .	134	98	36		26.8
Fever of all kinds, (Scarlet excepted)	185	141	44		23.7
Dropsy, (general) . . . . .	42	35	7		16.6
of the Head . . . . .	288	258	30		10.4
of the Chest . . . . .	18	26		8	30.07
Casualties . . . . .	15	8	7		46.6
Debility and Decay . . . . .	251	197	54		21.5
Atrophy . . . . .	65	38	27		41.5
Teething . . . . .	17	16	1		5.8
Burns and Scalds . . . . .	26	35		9	25.7
	3315	2827	542	55	
	2827		55		
Total mortality of both sexes from the above diseases . . . . .	6142		487		

The male mortality exceeds the female in the ratio of 7.94 per cent. Whole mortality from all diseases for the three years mentioned, under the twentieth year, (still-born deducted,) is males, 4,143—females, 3,541;—male excess, 602=7.69 per cent.

From this it will be seen in what way the excess of males at birth is reduced during the first periods of life, and how it happens that the females at the age of puberty come to outnumber the males in about the same proportion that these exceeded the females at birth.

The diseases which appear particularly obnoxious to the male sex are the following, arranged nearly in the order of their decreasing mortality:—

Inflammation of the brain, inflammation of the bowels, bronchitis, croup, inflammation of the lungs, fevers of all kinds, (except scarlet,) convulsions, general dropsy, dropsy of the head, small pox.

To these sources of mortality may be added those under the head of casualties, with others vaguely designated debility, decay, &c.

The few cases in which the deaths of females predominate, are under the following heads:—

Consumption, dropsy of the chest, scarlet fever, burns and scalds, hooping cough.

To show that the disparity exhibited in the deaths of the sexes is not of accidental occurrence, but one depending almost invariably upon causes operating from year to year, the following statement is subjoined.

*Infantile Mortality in Philadelphia in the Years 1832, 1833, and 1834, from the most predominant Causes, with the Numbers of each Sex for the different Years.*

DISEASES.	1832.		1833.		1834.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Consumption	58	74	54	50	41	61
Convulsions	160	147	130	96	143	114
Bowel complaints, (Cholera Maligna excepted)	299	235	126	132	267	225
Diarrhœa alone	60	53	21	25	33	40
Small-pox	8	5	56	52	69	57
Scarlet Fever	150	147	30	31	36	42
Croup	60	47	50	41	47	32
Hooping Cough	26	32	26	26	26	22
Bronchitis	40	30	15	11	39	43
Inflammations of all kinds	197	139	128	100	160	132
of the Brain	34	24	22	14	45	29
of the Lungs	83	60	55	35	52	56
of the Bowels	54	32	39	40	41	26
Fevers of all kinds, (Scarlet excepted)	86	72	59	42	40	27
Dropsy, (general)	60	53	7	4	16	12
of the Head	102	78	87	83	99	97
of the Chest	10	12	4	6	4	8
Casualties	5	6	3	2	7	
Debility and Decay	95	70	76	69	80	58
Atrophy			11	6	54	32
Teething	11	3	3	6	3	7
Burns and Scalds	6	10	11	12	9	13

*Infantile Deaths in Philadelphia during the Years 1832, 1833, and 1834, from the most Common Sources of Mortality, distributed under the various Periods of Life, from the First to the Twentieth Year.*

DISEASES.	Under 1 year.	From 1 to 2 years.	From 3 to 5	From 5 to 10	From 10 to 15	From 15 to 20
Consumption	74	48	54	32	26	104
Convulsions	550	107	94	24	10	5
Cholera Morbus	1	2	6	9	2	3
Maligna	4	6	37	42	22	25
Infantum	608	266	57	7	2	0
Diarrhœa	115	61	52	16	4	4
Dysentery	25	24	17	15	6	2
Small-pox	32	34	76	30	12	13
Scarlet Fever	33	83	205	100	12	3
Croup	108	63	85	19	2	0
Hooping Cough	81	31	37	8	1	1
Bronchitis	104	39	36	16	0	3
Inflammation of the Brain	51	36	36	20	13	12
of the Lungs	147	82	64	18	7	11
of the Bowels and Stomach	103	57	39	21	12	20
Fevers of all kinds, (Puerperal and Scarlet excepted)	87	44	70	45	39	45
Dropsy, (general)	10	7	21	20	7	12
of the Head	198	166	116	54	9	3
of the Chest	8	4	15	5	6	6
Casualties	1	3	6	4	5	4
Debility and Decay	329	22	19	6	1	4
Atrophy and Marasmus	132	71	32	6	2	3
Teething	20	11	2	0	0	0
Burns and Scalds	6	14	22	12	7	4
Of other affections	2877	1261	1178	529	200	287
	665	199	217	106	57	92
Total from all sources	3542	1460	1395	635	257	379

ART. IV. *Cases, with Remarks.* By C. A. LEE, M. D. of New York.

CASE I. *Phthisis Pulmonalis—Aphonia—Extreme Emaciation—Total loss of Right Lung—Abrasion of the Mucous Membrane, lining the Larynx and Trachea.*—G. N. aged sixteen, of fair complexion, and scrupulous habit, about two years since, had a severe fall, which stunned him, and he lay for some time insensible. In a few days he was seized with a cough, which continued during life. From the time of attack, he permanently lost his voice.